

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

12. (New) A prosthetic tibial component for a prosthetic total knee joint, said component comprising:

first and second constructs;

said first construct comprising a metal base construct adapted to engage a tibia; and

said second construct comprising a polyethylene bearing construct that attaches to said metal base construct and articulates with a prosthetic femoral component on an opposing side of the joint;

wherein said metal base construct comprises first and second different metals;

said first metal being adapted to engage a tibia surface; and

said second metal being adapted to engage said polyethylene bearing construct;

said first metal being adapted to provide a superior bone-engaging face; and

said second metal being adapted to provide a superior polyethylene-engaging face.

13. (New) A prosthetic tibial component according to claim 12 wherein said first metal comprises a material which is biocompatible and exhibits bone ingrowth properties.

14. (New) A prosthetic tibial component according to claim 13 wherein said first metal comprises a selected one of a group of metals consisting of titanium, titanium alloy, tantalum, and tantalum alloy.

15. (New) A prosthetic tibial component according to claim 12 wherein said second metal comprises a material which exhibits high hardness and is scratch resistant.

16. (New) A prosthetic tibial component according to claim 15 wherein said second metal comprises a selected one of a group of materials consisting of stainless steel, a cobalt based alloy, a zirconium based alloy, and CoCrMo.

17. (New) A prosthetic tibial component in accordance with claim 12 wherein said metal base construct comprises:

a base plate having said first metal on a first surface thereof for engagement with the tibia;

a stem extending from the first surface and adapted to be embedded in the tibia;

posts extending from the first surface of said base plate for connecting engagement with the tibia; and

a connector disposed on a second surface of said base plate for connection to a complementary connector on the polyethylene bearing construct.

18. (New) The prosthetic tibial component in accordance with claim 17 wherein said connectors comprise tongue-in-groove connectors.